

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

April 8, 2007

The following represent developments since our last series of meetings subsequent to the January referendum:

Site plan issues

The Design Review Committee (re)convened a site plan subcommittee to address outstanding site plan issues. While members of this subcommittee have, at various times, expressed an understanding of the concerns that have been repeatedly raised, and while materials have been exchanged, efforts to facilitate the subcommittee meeting directly with certain affected abutters and members of the design team have not fully materialized. Moreover, this subcommittee, as well as the Design Review Committee as a whole, has temporarily suspended meetings pending receipt of further plans from the design team. A copy of the subcommittee's report of March 13th is attached.

Bonding and Value-Engineering.

The past two months have been dominated by discussion relating to the 'value engineering' issues as well as the mayor's bonding request and funding plan. The Board, at its last meeting, approved the bonding. The Ward 2 Aldermen have attended meetings both at Design Review as well as before our respective Board committees to advocate on behalf of the neighborhood in respect to issues of interest, including the aesthetic appearance of the building and site conditions. The building is once again to be brick-sided, the roof to the gym wing is now planned to be a flat roof and the massing has been somewhat mitigated.

Site-related traffic and circulation issues/Establishment of a liaison committee

Discussions between the Ward 2 Aldermen, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Public Facilities Committee, the Board President and the Mayor, have finally resulted in the creation of a NNHS neighborhood liaison committee to address the following:

1. Items relating to the initial phase of construction, including offsite relocation parking for faculty and staff as well as items relating to the stadium demolition and other site preparation activities, scheduled to begin as early as this summer. The mayor or his designee will be present and directly involved in conducting the meetings.
2. Other outstanding issues relating to the site plan, including traffic and circulation, and certain site conditions for which recommendations will be referred to the Board through the Public Facilities Committee. Work begun with our meeting with Candace Havens could be integrated with the work of the liaison committee.

The liaison committee is anticipated to include some 15 members, approximately half of which will represent the appropriate school, city, and construction personnel, and half will be neighborhood representatives from all four sides of the site. The Ward 2 Aldermen have begun the process of soliciting input from the neighbors for the purpose of referring potential neighborhood representatives.

Ordinance Review

We intend to docket an item shortly that will review the whole process by which public building projects are governed.